

Checklist for Long Term Care Facilities Experiencing COVID-19 Outbreaks[‡]

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- Develop a testing plan in compliance with CMS guidelines.
- Refer to the CMS guidance for visitation recommendations during an outbreak situation[‡].
- Work with the [Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals \(DIA\)](#) to ensure you are meeting all CMS requirements.
- Everyone in the facility is recommended to practice source control at **ALL** times while the facility is in outbreak status[‡].
- Isolate all symptomatic residents and point of care antigen positive residents in single rooms as much as possible.
- Implement use of Transmission-Based Precautions.
- Screen all employees for COVID-19 at the start of the shift. Ill staff should be sent home immediately.
- Identify other healthcare facilities where staff work. Staff should not work in other facilities if possible, and if they do, use a face mask with eye protection for all patient care in any healthcare setting to minimize risk.
- Cohort staff so that dedicated staff are working with ill residents and not with healthy residents.
- Bundle care activities to minimize the number of HCP entries into a room.
- Screen all residents for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 every shift while the facility is in outbreak status[‡].
- Start and maintain a list of all positive residents and staff until the outbreak resolves[‡], a simple line list template is available from IDPH upon request.
- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant from List N for cleaning and disinfection: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Coordinate with local public health, EMS, and hospitals to plan for higher care needs (when and where to transfer and how to communicate COVID-19 risk to the transport team and accepting facility). Understand that the residents' illness may worsen on day 7 to 8 of symptoms.
- Establish a plan for communication with staff, residents and families, public health, and the public.
- Work with your administration, and public information officer if you have one, to prepare for potential media inquiries.
- Develop a staffing contingency plan. Refer to CDC's Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html>
- Ensure HCP receives training and competency validation on hand hygiene, PPE, and environmental cleaning and disinfection.

[‡]The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) defines an outbreak of COVID-19 in a long-term care facility as three or more residents testing positive within the same 14 day period. COVID-19 outbreaks in a long-term care facility are considered resolved 28 days after the last positive case is detected in a resident.